

AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1952



STOURBRIDGE
J. Thos. Ford, Limited, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers
1953

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1952.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 14.4 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 13.6 for 1951. The Live Birth Rate was 12.8 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 16.2 for 1951. There was 1 Still-birth. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 26 per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident				
Population, middle of 1952)	-	-	-	3045
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	927
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.4
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£20,219
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£79

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

			M.	F.	Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population
Live	Legitimate	Total 38 :	18	20	12.8
Births	Illegitimate	1 :	—	1	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 1 ; Rate per 1000
Total (live and still-births) - - - 25

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1951 - - 15.3

Deaths - 44—Males, 26 ; Females, 18 ;
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - - - 14.4
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - 12.6
Death Rate, England & Wales, 1951 - - 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - 1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :
(per 1000 live births) - - 26

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—
England & Wales - 27.6 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 10
Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 3.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (44).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	11	31

15 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,
and 13 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1951		1952	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	-	-
Influenza	2	2	1	2
Measles	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Cancer	4	7	8	2
Diabetes	-	-	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	2	2	3	3
Heart Disease	5	7	6	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	2	3	2
Pneumonia	-	-	2	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	-	1	-	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth	-	-	-	1
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes	2	-	1	1
All other Causes	3	2	1	-
TOTALS	19	23	26	18
	42		44	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

As 1938

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF
THE AREA.**

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report				-	31
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.		
Diphtheria (Swabs)	3	Nil	3		
Sputum	28	4	24		

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon
Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of
the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

Health Centres ;
Care of Mothers and Young Children ;
Midwifery ;
Health Visiting ;
Home Nursing ;
Vaccination and Immunisation ;
Ambulance Services ;
Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare ;
Domestic Help.
Blind Persons.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.
3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.
4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.
5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	-	4
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2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—		
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(a) By Owners	-	-	Nil.
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil.
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(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-	-	3
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-	-	1
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(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-	-	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-	-	-	Nil.
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4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(1)	Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1952)	-	-	-	Nil.
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	-			Nil.
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	-			Nil.
(b)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	-	-	-	Nil.
(c)	(1)	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	-	-	-	Nil.
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	-			Nil.
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	-		-	Nil

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1952.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.											Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.		
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	12	-	-	-	1	2	6	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough ...	4	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	18	-	1	1	1	4	8	2	-	1	-	-	-	-

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1952.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respira- tory.		Non- Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 „	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1952
for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	2	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	35	8	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		44	10	2	—	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	3	3	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11						11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12						12
TOTAL .		3	3	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report OF THE Sanitary Inspector For the Year 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Following the usual custom I beg to submit to you as concisely as possible my report for the Year 1952.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	912	} 927
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-	4	
Houses provided with Earth Closets	-	11	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets		793	} 927
Houses provided with Water Closets in common		119	
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		15	

The houses not provided with Water Closets are situated in the outlying part of your district which is extensively used for Fire Clay Mining. The provision of a sewer is not a practical proposition. The houses are scattered and the land subject to subsidence.

Removal of Household Refuse and Salvage Collection.

912 Houses out of 927 are provided with Sanitary Dust Bins and Covers of Galvanized Iron. Refuse Removal is carried out by Direct Labour. Collection is bi-weekly. The fuel available for domestic use is still severely restricted. The amount of resultant ash, however, is considerable, due to the generally poor quality of coal supplied. Disposal is by tipping. The tip is used for commercial purposes in addition to the deposit of household ashes and refuse. The latter is usually covered within a short time of tipping. Being centrally situated and within a short distance of the populated area a horse drawn vehicle has been found to be efficient and much more economical than a mechanically propelled one. Dust Bins to replace those worn out have been provided by the owners of 19 houses. No objection has been raised to the Notices. No necessity has arisen for the Council to consider the provision of Dust Bins.

Salvage Collection. The collection of Salvage, principally paper, ceased some years ago. Arrangements are, however, in operation for parcels of paper to be received at the office. They are eventually removed on advising the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Brierley Hill.

Housing.

A start on 48 Flats was made in July, 1952. Some of them will be ready for occupation in 1953. The anticipated date of com-

pletion is February, 1954. Unfortunately, a number of applicants cannot be provided with accommodation. Land is not available for housing except for a few isolated plots. The solution of the problem may be "Re-development" but that cannot be undertaken for many years and the cost will be prohibitive. One house has been provided by Private Enterprise and one is in course of erection. Both are for Owner-Occupiers.

Housing Conditions.

The houses in your district may be classified as follows:—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	} 927
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	314	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	527	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			85	

The following houses, unfit for human habitation, have been demolished viz:—Amblecote Hall (26 Vicarage Road) in compliance with a Demolition Order and 5 Stamford Road in accordance with a request made to the owner. Demolition Orders have been made in respect of Nos. 50 and 51 High Street. Since 1910, 92 unfit houses have been demolished, equal to 1 in every 10 of the existing houses. No "repair notices" under the Housing Acts have been issued. General Defects at the following houses have been dealt with viz:—No. 36 Brettell Lane, Nos. 40 to 49 Collis Street, No. 1 Dial Lane, No. 138 High Street, Nos. 46, 47, 83, 142 King William Street, No. 8 Wollaston Road. Abatement Notices—Informal and Statutory—within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on the owners of 39 houses. No proceedings in the Court have been necessary. The rents of practically the whole of the houses are controlled by the Rent Acts. Building Costs still show a tendency to increase, which is reflected in the charges for repairs. The position is steadily deteriorating.

Overcrowding. There is little actual overcrowding. The average number of persons per house is 3.4. Occupation of houses by two families, generally related, is common. A large proportion of the applications for houses is from married sons or daughters residing with their parents. The "in-law" problem is a difficult one to solve. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1100 accommodated in 927 houses.

Nomadic Caravan Dwellers.

Five families, housed in tents and vans, took possession, without permission, of certain land at Withymoor and Collins Lane. The sites were unsuitable, being without a supply of water or sanitary accommodation. With the assistance of the Police and the owners of the land they were "moved on." They were not of a type whose departure one regretted. Enquiries have been made as to possible Sites for such persons. I know of none and have replied accordingly.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

Water Supply.

With one exception all premises receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Stour-bridge and District Water Board. The principal Bore Holes (at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow) are situated in your District. Samples of Water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are taken at frequent intervals. The Laboratories are provided by the County Council. The Reports indicate a certain Hardness but otherwise the Water is of excellent quality for drinking. Close co-operation is maintained with the Engineer to the Board.

Milk—Retailers—Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1952.

There are two Farms only at which Milk is produced. Licences to sell Milk by retail were issued to ten Shopkeepers within the District and to eight persons whose premises are outside the district. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, made in accordance with The Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, which came into operation on 1st November, 1952, all Milk sold by retail in your area must be "Designated" Milk contained in Bottles.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No Slaughter-house is used in your District. The three retail Butchers are supplied with Meat, etc. from a Central Depot at Brierley Hill which is controlled by the Ministry of Food. Inspections of live animals and carcasses are carried out there by qualified Inspectors. Domestic pig feeding is not common. Three complaints arising from pig keeping were dealt with. No notices of slaughter of swine on private premises were received.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Two persons only are licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter house.

Food Distribution.

Food & Drugs Act 1938 Sec. 15.

Food is sold by retail in the following shops, viz. :—

Butchers 3, Grocers 4, General 10 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Greengrocers etc. 6 (2 lock-up shops and four part shops and part dwelling houses), Sweets and Tobacco 2 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Fried Fish 3 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Cafes 1.

Food poisoning outbreaks—Nil.

The model Bye-Laws suggested by the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food sold or intended for sale for human consumption have been adopted. They were confirmed by the Minister of Food and came into operation on September 11th, 1950. They are generally well observed. The majority of Shops are of the "mixed" type, usually a combination of shop and dwelling house. They were constructed for the dual purpose and living accommodation is not sacrificed for the purpose of "trade." They do not present any special difficulty.

There is no market nor stalls for street trading.

Unsound Food.

The following food found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption was surrendered and destroyed, viz. :—2 Tins Fruit (14 oz. tins of Strawberries), $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of imported Cheese and $20\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of Bacon.

Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your District. 12 premises—9 Shops, 1 Cafe, 1 Sports Pavilion and 1 Public House are registered for the sale and storage of Ice Cream. They are provided with suitable "Conservators."

Prevention of Damage by Pests.

The following premises have been treated against Rats & Mice viz. :—Factories 5, Offices 1, Dwelling Houses 11, Hospital 1, Farm Buildings 1, Refuse Tips 2. Disinfestation appears to have been effective. Regular quarterly treatment is recommended for factories. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than dwelling houses. The work is carried out by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council by arrangement with Mr. H. J. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector. His assistance is appreciated. The Sewers have not been treated as previous tests proved definitely negative.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

Complaints were received of excessive emission of smoke and fumes from 5 Factory Chimneys. Three proved to be of a temporary character. Of the other two, one is in connection with a "protected" factory. The other is receiving attention. It is hoped that when the alterations contemplated are completed there will be no further grounds for complaint.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1953.